

March 2004

State Need Grant Rules - Adoption

Board staff recommends adoption of the proposed change to the State Need Grant rules permitting the value of the grant to exceed the value of a recipient's tuition and fees by no more than \$50 for the 2003-04 and 2004-05 academic years.

OVERVIEW

One of the Board's goals for the State Need Grant (SNG) program is to fund a grant equal to the value of the recipient's tuition and service and activity fees at the public institutions, and a corresponding amount at the private institutions. At the same time, a SNG rule requires that the value of the grant not exceed the recipient's actual tuition and fee charges.

The maximum value of the SNG award is based on a full-time student's tuition and fee charges for 15 credits, but historically, public school students paid the same tuition and fees for 12 credits as they would pay for 18 credits. In this situation, no student's SNG award ever exceeded the value of his or her tuition and fee charges.

In 1999, however, the community and technical colleges began to phase in a tuition and fee structure that charges students on a credit-by-credit basis. In 2003-04, the value of the annual SNG award is \$14 greater than the value of the annual tuition and fees paid by community and technical college students enrolled for exactly 12 credits.

The SNG workgroup, composed of representatives from each of the sectors, has been discussing this issue, but has not yet come to a consensus as to whether the rule should be fully implemented or permanently modified. The group did, however, recommend that the rule be modified to permit a limited exception allowing an individual's grant to exceed tuition by no more than \$50. The cost to the program will be less than \$40,000. The group did not see that cost as a material issue for this academic year.

In authorizing staff to pursue a rules change to put this recommendation in place, the Board mandated that the exception be only for the 2003-04 and the 2004-05 academic years. Staff filed the proposed rule on January 21, 2004, as WSR 04-03-108.

The Board held a public hearing on February 24, 2004, and accepted written testimony through the close of business on February 27, 2004. No testimony was received.



STATE OF WASHINGTON
HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

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RESOLUTION NO. 04-02

WHEREAS, Current State Need Grant rules (WAC 250-20-041 [3][b]) limit the maximum value of the grant that any student receives to the value of the student's charges for tuition and fees; and

WHEREAS, The maximum value of the State Need Grant award is based on the average tuition and fees charged to a student taking 15 credits; and

WHEREAS, The community and technical college system is implementing a tuition and fee scale that charges all students by the actual number of credit hours taken; and

WHEREAS, The value of the annual 2003-04 State Need Grant award for community and technical college students who are taking 12 credits is about \$14 greater than the actual annual tuition and fees charged to these student; and

WHEREAS, The State Need Grant workgroup is actively examining the policy of connecting the value of the grant to the price of tuition; and

WHEREAS, The workgroup recommended that the value of the grant be allowed to temporarily exceed the cost of tuition for individual students by no more than \$50; and

WHEREAS, The Board authorized staff to file proposed rules to implement a temporary exception to the existing rule for the 2003-04 and the 2004-05 academic years; and

WHEREAS, Staff filed the notice of proposed changes as WSR 04-03-108, held a public hearing, and prepared the proposed rules for adoption;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts as permanent rules the changes proposed to Washington Administrative Code 250-20-041 (3)(b).

Adopted:

March 25, 2004

Attest:

Bob Craves, Chair

Ann Ramsay-Jenkins, Secretary

